

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~handling database locks~~  
authorizing access to a human resources database, comprising:  
detecting, by a computer, a new query ~~from a new administrator~~ for a set of  
database records ~~that are associated with a potential new lock~~;  
determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being authorized~~  
~~to acquire said new lock~~ a user that submitted the new query is authorized to acquire a  
new lock on the set of database records, wherein the user is authorized if the user does  
not have a conflict of interest with respect to the set of database records;  
denying the attempting to acquire said new lock if said new administrator has a  
chance of being the user is not authorized; and  
informing ~~said new administrator of a failure to acquire said new lock if a prior~~  
~~lock has already been acquired due to a prior query by a prior administrator~~  
setting the new lock or attempting to set the new lock if the user is authorized.

2 - 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The method for handling database locks~~  
as recited in claim 1 further comprising informing ~~said new administrator that said new~~  
~~administrator is not authorized to acquire said new lock if it is determined that said new~~

~~administrator has no chance of acquiring said new lock~~ the user that the user cannot  
access the set of database records when the user is not authorized.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The method for handling database locks~~  
as recited in claim 1 further comprising permitting access to [[said]] the set of database  
records if ~~said new administrator acquires said new lock, and designating said new~~  
~~administrator as a prior administrator and said new lock as a prior lock~~ the user is  
authorized.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The method for handling database locks~~  
as recited in claim 5 further comprising releasing ~~said prior lock after said prior~~  
~~administrator~~ the new lock after the user has checked out from [[said]] the set of  
database records.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The method for handling database locks~~  
as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any~~  
~~chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user is authorized further  
includes determining whether ~~said new administrator~~ the user has write authorization for  
[[said]] the set of database records.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The method for handling database locks~~  
as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any~~  
~~chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user is authorized further

includes determining whether ~~said new administrator~~ the user has a maximum database access authorization.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user has a conflict of interest includes determining whether [[said]] the set of database records personally pertain to ~~said new administrator~~ the user.

10. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user is authorized includes determining whether ~~said new administrator~~ the user is organizationally authorized.

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method for handling database locks as recited in claim 1 wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user is authorized includes determining includes whether ~~said new administrator~~ the user is currently authorized.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable media including medium storing program code segments instructions for handling database locks performing a method of authorizing access to a human resources database, the method comprising:

~~a code segment detecting a new query from a new administrator for a set of database records that is associated with a potential new lock;~~

~~a code segment determining whether said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock~~ a user that submitted the new query is authorized to acquire a new lock on the set of database, wherein the user is authorized if the user does not have a conflict of interest with respect to the set of database records;

~~a code segment attempting to acquire said~~ denying the new lock if said new administrator has a chance of being the user is not authorized; and

~~a code segment informing said new administrator of a failure to acquire said new lock if a prior lock has already been acquired due to a prior query by a prior administrator~~

setting the new lock or attempting to set the new lock if the user is authorized.

13 - 14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer-readable medium media-  
~~including program code segments for handling database locks as recited in claim 12~~  
~~further comprising a code segment informing said new administrator that said new~~  
~~administrator is not authorized to acquire said new lock if it is determined that said new~~  
~~administrator has no chance of acquiring said new lock~~ the user that the user cannot  
access the set of database records when the user is not authorized.

16. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer-readable medium ~~media~~ including ~~program code segments for handling database locks~~ as recited in claim 12 further comprising ~~a code segment~~ permitting access to [[said]] the set of database records if ~~said new administrator acquires said new lock, and designating said new administrator as a prior administrator and said new lock as a prior lock~~ the user is authorized.

17. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer-readable medium ~~media~~ including ~~program code segments for handling database locks~~ as recited in claim 16 further comprising ~~a code segment~~ releasing ~~said prior lock after said prior administrator~~ the new lock after the user has checked out from [[said]] the set of database records.

18. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer-readable medium ~~media~~ including ~~program code segments for handling database locks~~ as recited in claim 12 wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being~~ authorized to acquire said new lock the user is authorized includes determining whether ~~said new administrator~~ the user has write authorization for [[said]] the set of database records.

19. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer-readable medium ~~media~~ including ~~program code segments for handling database locks~~ as recited in claim 12 wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being~~

~~authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user is authorized includes determining whether ~~said new administrator~~ the user has a maximum database access authorization.

20. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The computer-readable medium media-~~  
~~including program code segments for handling database locks~~ as recited in claim 12  
wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being-~~  
~~authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user has a conflict of interest includes  
determining whether [[said]] the set of database records personally pertain to ~~said new-~~  
~~administrator~~ the user.

21. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The computer-readable medium media-~~  
~~including program code segments for handling database locks~~ as recited in claim 12  
wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being-~~  
~~authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user is authorized includes determining whether  
~~said new administrator~~ the user is organizationally authorized.

22. (Currently Amended) [[A]] ~~The computer-readable medium media-~~  
~~including program code segments for handling database locks~~ as recited in claim 12  
wherein determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being-~~  
~~authorized to acquire said new lock~~ the user is authorized includes determining whether  
~~said new administrator~~ the user is currently authorized.

23 - 24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A database system ~~including locks~~ authorizing access to a human resources database, comprising:

means for detecting, by a computer, a new query ~~from a new administrator~~ for a set of database records ~~capable that is associated with a new lock~~;

means for determining whether ~~said new administrator has any chance of being authorized to acquire said new lock~~ a user that submitted the new query is authorized to acquire a new lock on the set of database records, wherein the user is authorized if the user does not have a conflict of interest with respect to the set of database records;

means for ~~attempting to acquire said~~ denying the new lock if ~~said new administrator has a chance of being~~ the user is not authorized; and

~~means for informing said new administrator of a failure to acquire said new lock if a prior lock has already been acquired due to a prior query by a prior administrator~~

means for setting the new lock or attempting to set the new lock if the user is authorized.

26 - 27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The database system ~~including locks~~ as recited in claim 25 further comprising means for informing ~~said new administrator that said new administrator is not authorized to acquire said new lock if it is determined that said new administrator has no chance of acquiring said new lock~~ the user that the user cannot access the set of database records when the user is not authorized.

29. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The database system ~~including locks~~ as recited in claim 25 further comprising means for permitting access to ~~[[said]]~~ the set of database records if ~~said new administrator acquires said new lock, and means for designating said new administrator as a prior administrator and said new lock as a prior lock~~ the user is authorized.

30 - 34. (Cancelled).

35. (New) A method for making a preliminary determination of whether a user has authorization to access a set of database records, comprising:

detecting, by a computer, a new query from the user for a set of database records;

determining whether the user has a chance of being authorized to acquire a new lock for the set of database records based on at least one of (a) write authorization and (b) a lack of conflict of interest; and

denying the new lock if the user does not have a chance of being authorized.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

setting the new lock or attempting to set the new lock if the user has a chance of being authorized.



37. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein determining whether the user has any chance of being authorized to acquire the new includes determining whether the user has a maximum database access authorization.

38. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein determining whether the user has a conflict of interest includes determining whether the set of database records personally pertain to the user.